



Fludarabine

At the Clinical Center referred to as fludarabine (floo-DARE-a-bean).

How Given: Intravenously (by vein).

Drug Action: Fludarabine blocks a protein that cancer cells need to copy and repair DNA. DNA is the genetic material in cells used to make new cells.

Side Effects: 1. Bone marrow effects can include a temporary decrease in white blood cells, platelets, and red blood cells. These effects usually occur within 2 weeks after treatment.

2. The following can occur:

- mild nausea and vomiting during treatment
- diarrhea
- temporary hair thinning
- mouth sores
- mild pain in muscles and joints
- allergic reactions or skin rash
- decrease or loss of appetite
- weakness and tiredness.

**Special
Instructions:**

1. **Do not** take aspirin or aspirin-containing products unless prescribed by your NIH doctor.
2. Take antinausea medication as ordered. Call your NIH doctor or nurse if you
 - have a temperature of 101.0 °F (38.3 °C) at any time, or have a temperature of at least 100.4 °F (38.0 °C) that lasts 1 hour or occurs two times within a 24-hour period

- have an unusual or persistent cough or difficulty breathing
- have diarrhea or mouth sores
- are unable to drink for more than 1 day or unable to eat for more than 2 days after treatment
- have shortness of breath, fatigue, or dizziness
- have any unusual bleeding or bruising



This information is prepared specifically for patients participating in clinical research at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health and is not necessarily applicable to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your healthcare team.

Living with Cancer Chemotherapy Series
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